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F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

FILE NO. 7460

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E 7460

PALESTINE

Registry Number } EY460/7460/21
 FROM International
 No. Red Cross
 Dated Aug 13
 Received in Registry } 15

Teniel Poterack Camp, Kaland.
 Transmits copies of report drawn up by M. Holbling, after his visit to the Jewish Poterack Camp, Kaland.

Last Paper

(Minutes.)

References

Please acknowledge
 copy to.

15/8

(Print)

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(How disposed of)

ack.
 Aug. 20

J. B. O.
 Aug. 22

(Action completed)

(Index)

G. L. M. / 14/9/48

Next Paper

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
 AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

LONDON DELEGATION

55, PALL MALL, S.W.1.

Telephone :
 ABBEY 2896
 .. 2897.

August 15th 19 47

Eastern Department,
 Foreign Office,
 Whitehall, S.W.1.

E 7460

We have pleasure in sending you herewith, as requested by our headquarters in Geneva, two copies of the following report:-

- Jewish Internee Camp, Latrun, Palestine.

We also enclosed a letter from Monsieur E. de Ribaupierre of the Agence Centrale addressed to you.

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Rappeler dans la réponse :

Chèques postaux I. 5527
Téléphone 4 23 05
Télég. "INTERCROIXROUGE"

G.17/Rapp
G.85
JRh/MJSt

GENÈVE, le 4 août 1947
Palais du Conseil-Général

Foreign Office
L O N D O N

Sir,

We beg to send you enclosed two copies of the report drawn in June last by one of our delegates in Palestine, Mr. Helbling, after the visit he paid to the following camp i.e.:

- Jewish Internee Camp, Latrun

Copies of this report have been sent to the British Authorities in Palestine.

We are,

Sir,

Yours respectfully
Pour le Comité International
de la Croix Rouge:

E. de Planhol

Division des prisonniers
Internés et civils

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H/CW/MBG



11 AUG 1947
Palostine

Jewish Internee Camp, LATRUN

Visited by Mr. C.A. Helbling on June 10, 1947.

Camp Commander: Captain I.A. Dudley-Nigg, (as from September 1946).

Supervisor (Lagerführer): LEWER Matetjahu, since July 1946.

Camp Strength: 407, plus 3 in hospital in Jerusalem.

Description

The camp of Latrun is near Lydda, 31 km. from Jerusalem and 34 km. from Tel-Aviv. About 130 meters above sea level. The climate is hot, but reputed to be healthy.

The internees are accommodated in ~~tin~~^{Nissen} huts (round roofed, as is usual in the British Army). These huts were built about two years ago, for the purpose of accommodating civilian internees. Buildings are all in good condition. The camp is surrounded by a double barbed-wire fence and divided into various compounds by further barbed wire. Electric lighting is installed.

The camp hospital is in one of these sections.

Protection

The camp is strictly guarded against possible attacks from outside.

Quarters

Living huts are in good condition and there is ample space. Bunks have mattresses and each internee has three blankets in summer and four in winter. Dormitories are clean and tidy.

Food

The kitchen makes a very good impression, as regards cleanliness and installations. (See Annex)

Camp Hospital

The wards are spacious, five patients per ward. They have mattresses and army bedsteads. The doctor is a Jew and has

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a practice in Tel-Aviv also. He was absent at the time of the delegate's visit. Serious cases are sent to the hospital in Jerusalem for treatment. About 20 patients are treated daily in the camp infirmary. The assistant staff are Jewish internees, who receive extra pay for their services. The hospital is well equipped with medicaments and surgical instruments. The delegate's attention was drawn to the fact that a few of the patients at the Camp hospital were recommended for discharge by a Medical Commission, but have not yet been released.

Work

Internees work only for their own requirements. Arab workmen are available for rough work.

Religion

One of the huts serves as a synagogue.

Leisure

The delegate saw several internees busy wood-carving. The sports field is available at any time. Games outfits are furnished partly by the Welfare Committee.

Library

This contains approximately 500 Hebrew and 300 English books. More books for reading and study purposes are requested. The library is adorned with pictures and caricatures of well-known Jewish personalities.

Mail

Every internee may send off two six-page letters per month in any language. He may also receive two letters per month.

Parcels

Internees are allowed to receive a parcel once a week.

Visits

Permission may be given to next-of-kin to visit internees. In the reception premises a barbed-wire fence separates visitors from internees by two meters. Theoretically visits last ten minutes, but these are given a very liberal interpretation. Both English and Hebrew may be spoken. A Palestine soldier is present during these talks.

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Welfare

Jewish Organizations in Palestine are allowed to engage in welfare work of all descriptions in the camp.

Treatment

The delegate heard no complaints about ill treatment.

Camp Morale

As the delegate was only able to speak in English with the Camp Spokesman (whose mother tongue was German) in presence of the British Authorities, he cannot express any opinion on this point, although camp morale did not seem to be low.

Remarks

Apart from Hebrew, it seemed to the delegate that German is the language that is most spoken in camp.

He met four internees in Camp, who had been transferred here a few days before his visit, from the Gil-Gil camp, Kenya, probably preliminary to liberation. Their names are:

AFAR	Shmuel
IWIANSKI	Zeew
MOSHE	Zerebro
ZELNICK	Iechak

The camp spokesman stated that it would be better for morale generally if such internees only were admitted as are likely to remain in camp for some time. Transit internees find it difficult to adapt themselves to camp discipline and have a bad influence on their fellow internees. Most of the internees are young men, There are no women in the camp. The British Authorities have the intention of creating a new camp for youths.

Status

The British Authorities describe the internees of Latrun as "DETAINEES". Their arrest was due to the fact that they are under grave suspicion of having taken part in activities against the British Authorities. The question of possible release will be decided by a British Commission, including a British judge.

Conclusion

This camp makes a good impression, but the delegate was only able to spend two hours in it, under the aforementioned restrictive conditions and this must be taken into account.

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Ration Scale:

Bread Standard	500	grammes
Meat, fresh (without bone) ...	126	"
" if with bone 25%		
Vegetables, fresh	240	"
Fruit, fresh	120	"
Potatoes, fresh	200	"
Rice	60	"
Macaroni	50	"
Onions	30	"
Milk, fresh	130	"
Sugar	50	"
Salt	15	"
Tea	10	"
or Coffee	15	"
Cheese, local	10	"
Pepper	0,25	"
Cooking Oil (Olive Oil or Shemen Oil)	20	"
Jam or Marmalade	20	"
Eggs, fresh, one twice weekly.		
Margarine	30	"
Ice	50	"

Weekly Menus

Sunday:

Breakfast: Greens, eggs, margarine, bread, jam, coffee.
Lunch: Macaroni, cabbage, bread, Kefir.
Supper: Sausages, potatoes, mustard, bread, tea, jam.

Monday:

Breakfast: Greens, eggs, margarine, bread, jam, coffee, cheese.
Lunch: Soup, omelet with sausages, bread, tea.
Supper: Fish (tinned), potatoes, pudding, bread, jam, tea.

Tuesday:

Breakfast: Greens, eggs, halva, margarine, olives, bread, coffee.
Lunch: V.soup, cabbage, bread, tea.
Supper: N.soup, meat, potatoes, cucumber, bread, jam, tea.

Wednesday:

Breakfast: Greens, olives, eggs, margarine, bread, jam, coffee.
Lunch: N.soup, meat, potatoes, cucumbers, bread, tea.
Supper: Omelets with sausage, bread, jam, tea.

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End

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Thursday:

Breakfast: Greens, eggs, margarine, bread, jam, coffee, cheese.
Lunch: Beans, potatoes, bread, tea.
Supper: Sausage with potatoes, bread, jam, tea.

Friday:

Breakfast: Greens, olives, cheese, bread, margarine, coffee.
Lunch: Hummos, fried fish, bread, jam, tea.
Supper: M.soup, meat. potatoes, cucumber, bread, jam. tea.

Saturday:

Breakfast: Greens, cheese, halva, herring. olives, margarine, bread, cacao.
Lunch: Fried potatoes with meat, cucumber, pudding, bread, black coffee.
Supper: Greens, sardines, margarine, bread, jam, tea.

Weekly addition of food issued by the G.A.

Potatoes	155 kg.
Tomatoes	144 "
Cucumbers	160 "
Onions	10 "
Fish	50 "
Herring	40 "
Halva	50 "
Vinegar	20 bottles
Tomato sauce	30 tins
Eggs	1600
Cheese	50 kg.
Sausage	25 "
Olives	25 "
Pickled Cucumbers	14 tins
Corn-Flakes	20 packages
Bread (white)	20 loafs
Butter	20 pack.
Washing soap	20
Table salt	24 pack.
Coffee	3 kg.
Cocoa	3 "
Pudding	10 "

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